



## Students Experience Aviation With Hands On Activities

Fifth grade students from Target Range School in Missoula participated in a "hands on" aviation education experience at the Montana Aviation Conference on Thursday, March 1, 2007. Seven aviation education stations were set up for the students.

Len Wheeler of the Helena Flight Standards District Office instructed precision landing with the FAA's flight simulator. Rena Smith with the Helena College of Technology instructed the students on the finer points of drilling and riveting. Harold Dramstad and Art Dykstra both flight instructors taught thrust using balsa planes with propellers and gear and a takeoff runway. Gary Weyermann and Patrick Tucker taught aerodynamics with "Pin the part on the airplane". Fred McDowell and Gary Matson conducted "the best airplanes to fly" with the paper airplane contest. Harry LaForge demonstrated the magnetic compass with "toys that teach". Flight Instructors Clint Cotton and Jasmine Zink showed the students how to plot a course on the Montana chart. Thank you to all the professional instructors and to the airplane cookie chefs, Geanette Cebulski and Jeanne MacPherson.



*Students learned how to drill and rivet with Rena Smith and students from Helena College of Technology at the aviation education program a part of the Montana Aviation Conference.*



*Harry LaForge taught the 5th grade students from Target Range School about magnetic compasses.*



*Len Wheeler of the Helena Flight Standards District Office instructs a student in the flight simulator as a part of the aviation education program held during the conference.*

# Administrator's Column

**A good time was had by all:** The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Montana Aviation Conference is in the history books. This year's conference proved to be one of the best offering a diverse program that offered something for everyone. The concurrent sessions, general session and keynote events featured first-rate speakers. The facility was superb — boasted a full to capacity exhibit hall that flooded with energy and a variety of companies showing the latest in aviation technology, supplies and services. Each year the host committee works behind the scenes for many months to ensure an exceptional program, meals and entertainment are provided. Many thanks to the Missoula host conference committee: Cris Jensen, Chairman, Larry Ashcraft, Geanette Cebulski, Wade Cebulski, Julie Chapman, Jack Gillespie, Rick Hafenfeld, Tory Kendrick, John Maxness, Teri Norcross, Sherri Rossiter, Steve Rossiter and Paul Stafford. Thanks also to the Aeronautics Division staff who work throughout the year to ensure conference success; particularly Patty Kautz for her dedication to this great event. See you next year in Great Falls.

**Small Community Air Service Grants:** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has invited communities and/or consortia of communities interested in obtaining a federal grant under the Small Community Air Service Development Program to develop cost-effective air service in their communities to apply for grants under a program designed to support small towns and cities working to improve their airline service. The program limits the DOT to a maximum of 40 grant awards and \$10 million. Over the past five years individual grants have ranged from \$20,000 to \$1.6 million. Amounts of award vary depending upon the features and merits of the proposals selected for funding. Proposals must be submitted no later than April 27, 2007. Communities interested can find the DOT's request for proposal and application submission requirements at: <http://dms/dot/gov/> and search for docket number OST-2007-27370.

**President's Budget Proposal:** Many attended the general session at the aviation conference where the administration's FAA/AIP reauthorization proposal was discussed by FAA, state and industry representatives. The proposal is very lengthy, complicated and there are many unknowns. Total aviation spending is proposed to be \$14 billion; \$412 million less than FY2007. Here are a few of the details: FAA could borrow \$5 billion to finance ATO facilities and equipment and directed to raise user fees to repay the debt. The airport improvement program (AIP) would be reduced to \$2.75 billion, down \$765 million. All non-primary entitlements will be eliminated and general aviation airports divided into four tiers – first tier (busiest airports) would be eligible for \$400,000; second tier for \$200,000; third tier for \$100,000 all at a 90% - 10% match. Fourth tier airport, those with fewer than 10 based aircraft would be guaranteed \$0 but eligible to apply for grants at the current 95% - 5% match. General aviation fuel taxes will increase from 21.8 cents-per-gallon to 70 cents per gallon – a 300% increase. General aviation operators would be assessed a new user fee for flights that pass through airspace near major airports and a “terminal fee” for landing at any one of 30 large airports. Airmen will be charged more for their pilot's certificate and for registering an aircraft. Passenger facility charges would be increased from \$4.50 to \$6.00. EAS would be funded at not less than \$50 million and the definition of eligible communities will be changed. The proposal relies on direct user fees and restructured taxes with a 19% general fund contribution. Confused, concerned.....stay tuned. View the proposal at: [http://www.faa.gov/regulations\\_policies/reauthorization](http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/reauthorization).



## *Montana and the Sky*

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**Editor:** Patty Kautz

# Calendar of Events

**April 21** - EAA breakfast at Stevensville Airport, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**May 24** – Aviation Maintenance Technician Day

**May 26-28** – Benchmark & Spotted Bear Work Sessions.

**June 2** – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Settle Aviation MPA Fly In at Sunday Creek Airpark beginning at 10:00 a.m., steak fry, flour bombing. For further information phone (406) 232-6926.

**June 4** - Aeronautics Board Meeting, Helena. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

**June 9** – Lewistown Airport breakfast and static display – 7:00 a.m.. For further information, phone Jerry Moline (406) 350-3264.

**June 16-17** – Father's Day Fly In Sourdough Pancake Breakfast. Fort Peck Airport. In conjunction with the fly in will be a classic car show sponsored by the Landers Car Club. Barbeque Saturday evening and pancakes Sunday morning. For further information, phone Lanny Hanson at (406) 263-1154 or email [hpb@nemontel.net](mailto:hpb@nemontel.net).

**June 16-17** – Father's Day Fly In, Twin Brides Airport. Pig roast and pancake breakfast. More information on web site at [www.rubyvalleyaviation.com](http://www.rubyvalleyaviation.com).

**June 17** – Air Show, Baker Airport, featuring two of the hottest acts of the air show circuit. Pietsch Air Shows and Gene Soucy Air Shows. For further information contact Roger at [bakerair@midrivers.com](mailto:bakerair@midrivers.com) or phone (406) 778-3508.

**June 23** – “New” Plains Airport Fly-In Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For further information, phone Randy Garrison at (406) 826-3605 or (406) 826-3055.

**June 23-24** – Meadow Creek Work Session.

**June 30** – North Central Hangar Fly In Breakfast and Big Boys Toy Show, Havre Airport.

**June 30 - July 1** - Fly In Stevensville Airport, breakfast both days; barbeque Saturday afternoon/evening.

**July 14** – Del Bonita Work Session.

**July 20-22** – Schafer Meadows Work Session.

**July 28-29**—Bozeman Air Show featuring the Blue Angels along with MiG Fury Fighters, World Parabolic Swoop Team, Greg Poe, Kent Pietsch and Jim Pietz.

# Attention Pilots

Since the Montana Directory was printed there are many changes already; please note the following:

- **KXLO** 1230 at Lewistown has 24 hr. operation.
- Great Falls Departure Frequency on page A-13 is 128.6
- The owner of Front Range Aviation on page A-22 is Mike Cunningham
- **Big Timber Airport:** Change Manager to Robert Bryan; (406) 932-4270, (406) 930-1040, (406) 932-4266
- **Billings Airport:** Tower frequency 127.2
- **Broadus Airport:** Identifier is OOF. 100LL on Cash or Check & additional number for airport Manager (406) 853-0212
- **Lewistown Airport:** Jerry Moline's number is (406) 535-3264, Lighted Wind T, Fuel 100LL
- **Malta Airport:** The phone number of Dixon Hitch (406) 654-7343 has been changed to (406) 390-0114
- **Plains Airport:** Runway is 4650'. Scratch off (RWY7/25 temporarily closed. Cones mark paved rwy entire length.). Change [www.potomacaviation.com](http://www.potomacaviation.com) to [www.superawos.com](http://www.superawos.com)
- **Plentywood Airport:** Manager number has changed from (406) 286-5452 to (406) 765-3403. Scratch off (Rwy 8/26 may be closed for repairs-check NOTAMS.)

**2007 Montana Aviation  
Conference another  
success story!**

**NEXT  
MONTH**



# Professional Flight Instructors Gather for Clinic

On February 16-17, fifty-one Montana professional flight instructors came together in Helena to participate in 16 hours of current issues for flight instructors and recertification with Greg Gorak of Gaits Aviation Seminars. In order for certified flight instructors to recertify, the course has to be approved by the FAA; topics are specific and cover teaching effectively, human factors, practical test standards, flight safety, weather, current events and issues, advanced training, the FARs and professionalism.

The group study break-out seemed to be the instructor's favorite session. The session consisted of a determination made by the flight instructors as to whether the questions covering several flight training examples were legal under the federal aviation regulations. This process became interesting with the disagreements and interpretations of the federal aviation regulations.

The Transportation Security Administration was represented with Kim Vein of Missoula in attendance. Greg Gorak arranged with the TSA for the mandatory security awareness training and certification of flight instructors in attendance at the clinic.

The Helena Flight Standards District office supported the refresher clinic with Steve Jones presenting a flight instructor session and Gerald Byrd working on the temporary flight instructor refresher certificates. Paul Hurlbert and Derek Amos of the HLN FSDO were also in attendance and shared their expertise in the group break out sessions.

The real gems came from the flight instructors in the room, what a tremendous amount of knowledge in the room. Thank you to all the Montana flight instructors



*The knowledge that Doug Parrott, Roundup (l) and Mike Strand, Kalispell possess as pilots and flight instructors is valuable to all of the flight instructors attending the annual FIRC, participants were honored and appreciative of the information shared by Doug and Mike.*



*Jeanne MacPherson, Helena (l) and Ruthmary Lovitt, Missoula shared ideas on the subject of aerodynamics a part of the group break-out session at the annual FIRC.*

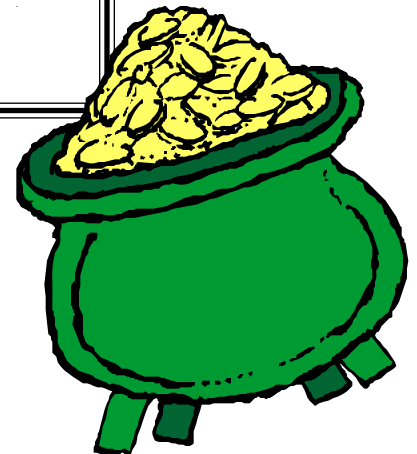
**Service announcement:** Delta has announced new Montana service. This summer Bozeman will receive four flights per week (Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday) direct to Atlanta. This service is increased from twice/week last summer. Glacier Park International at Kalispell will also summer service direct to Atlanta on Wednesday and Saturday of each week. Both routes will be operated with 737-800 aircraft.

# Airport Grants and Loans Awarded

*By: Jim Greil – Airports/Airways Bureau Chief*

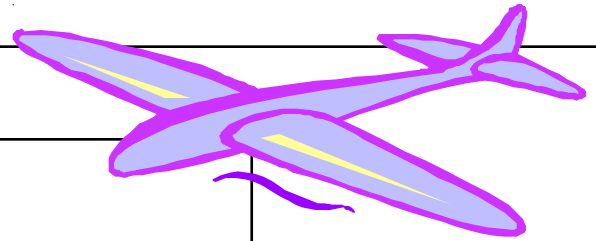
This year, the Montana Aeronautics Division gave away hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans and grants to various Montana airports as part of its annual loan and grant program. The program, developed 14 years ago, has become a major contributor to Montana airports. At any given time, there is usually nearly a million dollars of Aeronautics Division funds obligated to various airport projects around the state. Under current funding levels, there is usually about \$700,000 available for disbursement each year for both loans or grants for aviation projects around the state. Funding for this program is provided by a \$0.02 / gallon tax on fuel sold to general aviation aircraft in Montana. Although most of this money is usually used toward large projects that need to leverage much larger federal (FAA) airport dollars available for Montana airports each year, (approximately 8 to 12 million per year at a 95/5% match), there is usually a small percentage awarded for various smaller airport projects as well. Applications for the money are due into the Aeronautics Division around Thanksgiving each year, and the money is awarded usually in January or February of the following year. The nine member Montana Aeronautics Board has sole responsibility for the awarding of loan and grant monies. The board met on January 30 of this year to hear the requests and take action on the fiscal year 2008 requests. The 2008 fiscal year will begin July 1 of 2007. The board usually discusses each project in general and then will sometimes hear presentations provided by airport sponsors and their representatives. After discussion has been completed, the board will vote and approve, deny or amend the requests. This program is open to all public use entities and the money can be used for nearly any airport or aviation related project. For more information regarding the program, contact the Aeronautics Division. Below are the awards for fiscal year 2008.

<b>AIRPORT</b>	<b>GRANT</b>	<b>LOAN</b>
Circle	\$66,000	\$40,000
Columbus	\$12,477	\$12,477
Cut bank	\$30,000	\$95,316
Eureka	\$3,750	\$3,675
Fort Benton	\$2,763	
Glasgow	\$2,315	
Glendive	\$12,500	
Hamilton	\$2,763	
Harlowton	\$5,000	\$4,534
Libby	\$3,947	
Plentywood	\$2,000	\$2,000
Sidney	\$10,000	\$27,200
Stevensville	\$15,000	\$46,045
Townsend	\$1,974	
Turner	\$4,500	
Wolf Point	\$10,000	\$33,623
Baker	\$6,000	\$2,500
Big Sandy	\$17,000	\$17,000
Bridger	\$15,000	
Fairfield	\$10,000	\$10,000
Red Lodge		\$50,000
Saint Ignatius	\$4,500	
Seeley Lake		\$15,000
Winifred	\$100,000	



# U.S. Pilot Numbers Dip Below 600,000

Despite aggressive action — including a whole new certificate classification — to attract more people to flying, the number of certificated pilots in the U.S. dropped to 597,109, according to year-end preliminary stats released by the FAA. Rather than attract new pilots, the new Sport Pilot certificate appears to be extending the flying activity of older pilots. The average age of pilots as a whole was 45.6 years while the average of the 939 sport pilot holders was 52.9 years. AOPA's mentorship program, Project Pilot, is reporting some success in encouraging people to learn to fly and there are plenty of instructors waiting. More than 90,000 pilots, almost one in six, are instructors. The stats also raise questions about the need or viability of the recreational certificate. Only 242 people have maintained those privileges. By far the biggest segment of pilots is private certificate holders (236,147) with ATP (144,681) and commercial (130,234) in second and third place. There are 84,866 student pilots and 41,306 with rotor ratings. A total of 37,837 pilots have glider ratings and 10,511 can fly balloons.



## Trading Paper For Plastic

You can keep your paper pilot certificate forever, but if you want to continue flying, sooner or later you'll likely have to get one of the new, tamper-resistant, plastic certificates. The FAA issued a proposal that would require pilots to get a plastic certificate within two years (five years for other airmen certificates) after the regulation is finalized in order to continue exercising their airmen privileges. The rule would also require aircraft owners to notify the FAA within five days after the sale or transfer of ownership of their aircraft. The FAA has been issuing plastic certificates since 2003, but after the 9/11 terror attacks prompted the agency to act on a proposal published in the late 1980s but never finalized. All pilots can voluntarily [request a plastic certificate online](#), and you can keep your old paper certificate. Ordering a new certificate costs \$2, but if you want the FAA to remove your social security number from the certificate or its records, you can get a [plastic certificate at no cost](#).

## FAA InFO: Dangers Of Noise-Canceling (ANR) Headset

The idea is simple enough: What you don't hear could kill you. The Flight Standards Service released an InFO to alert operators that "noise-canceling" headsets might be susceptible to "misdetection" and subsequent electronic attenuation of some things you'd probably rather hear. (Note: The memo might also pertain to what many pilots refer to as active noise reduction [ANR] headsets, but that specific verbiage was not used.) The alert states that the range of frequencies attenuated by a noise-canceling headset is often proprietary and may not be publicly available. This makes it "difficult to assess any effects" of attenuation, particularly as they pertain to things like communications, abnormal mechanical noises, audible alarms, vibrations, wind noises and other sounds that might alert an unattenuated observer to impending doom. For now, rather than regulate, the FAA's solution involves passing the buck to you. The FAA recommends operators pursue evaluation of headsets — both in the air and on the ground — sufficient to ascertain any potentially negative effects of the headsets. Further, if any audible alarms or environmental sounds cannot be discerned, efforts should be made to find a different headset. The FAA identifies an InFO as "valuable information for operators that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory, or operational requirements with relatively low urgency or impact on safety."

# Weightless Flights By Zero Gravity Corporation

Zero Gravity Corporation (ZERO-G®), the first and only FAA-approved provider of commercial weightless flights, will launch regular flights from Las Vegas for the general public beginning April 21. ZERO-G delivers the only commercial opportunity on Earth for individuals to experience true “weightlessness” without going to space. This is the identical weightless flight experience used by NASA to train its astronauts and used by Ron Howard and Tom Hanks to film *Appollo-13*. *G-FORCE ONE*, ZERO-G’s specially modified Boeing 727-200 aircraft, will depart from Signature Air Terminal at McCarran International Airport.

Each ZERO-G mission is designed for maximum fun. The aircraft’s interior is a zero gravity playroom, complete with padded floors and walls and video cameras to record the unforgettable moments. When experiencing zero gravity, guests can fly like Superman, flip like an Olympic gymnast and enjoy 10-times more hang-time than the world’s best basketball player. The dynamic, out-of-this-world *ZERO-G Experience™* is destined to become one of the hottest tickets in Vegas. To view the ZERO-G Experience, click on the following link <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1808925740998663902&pr=goog-sl>.

Weightless flight is an experience that few have tried, but those who have call it amazing and life-changing. Martha Stewart, Bill Bush, Burt Rutan, Miles O’Brien, and cast members of “The Apprentice,” and “The Biggest Loser” are just a few notable passengers who’ve flown with ZERO-G and proclaimed it to be one of the most thrilling experiences of their lives. Numerous astronauts including Buzz Aldrin and Anousheh Ansari also have enjoyed ZERO-G voyages. ZERO-G has played a major role in several blockbuster hits including *Matrix 2* and *Matrix 3*.

Professor Stephen Hawking, the world-renowned physicist and expert on gravity, will fly weightless on the *ZERO-G Experience* on April 26, 2007. The flight will take off from the Shuttle Landing Facility at the Kennedy Space Center in Central Florida.

Founded in 1993 and headquartered in Las Vegas, ZERO-G is led by a world-class team of veteran astronauts and experienced business leaders. The company was co-founded by X PRIZE Chairman and space visionary, Dr. Peter H. Diamandis; and veteran astronaut, Dr. Byron K. Lichtenberg. The duo spent more than a decade working to bring the marvel of weightless flight to the public. Since launching the *ZERO-G Experience* to the general public in September 2004, the company has conducted about 100 weightless flights and flown more than 2,500 passengers, including celebrities and media personalities, corporate charters, science and math teachers, and individuals age 12 to 85.

“With the launch of ZERO-G’s regular flights from Las Vegas, the general public now has convenient access to an incredible adventure that was previously only available to astronauts,” said Dr. Peter H. Diamandis, CEO and Co-founder of ZERO-G. “Visitors flock to Las Vegas for once-in-a-lifetime experiences, and ZERO-G will deliver on that expectation and then some. ZERO-G is destined to become Las Vegas’ greatest attraction for young and old, for anyone who ever wanted to fly like superman or float like an astronaut.”

The *ZERO-G Experience* consists of a brief training session for passengers followed by a 90-minute flight aboard *G-Force One*, during which parabolic maneuvers are performed. The controlled ascent and descent of the plane allows flyers to experience Martian gravity (1/3-gravity), Lunar gravity (1/6-gravity), and zero gravity. The *ZERO-G Experience* provides its flyers with twice the amount of weightless time achieved in a typical sub-orbital flight into space. ZERO-G operates under the highest safety standards as set by the FAA (Part-121) with its partner Amerijet International of Ft. Lauderdale Florida. Aircraft operations take place under the same regulations set for large commercial passenger airlines.

For the current Las Vegas flight schedule, more information or to book a seat, visit [www.GoZeroG.com](http://www.GoZeroG.com) or call 1-800-937-64800. Currently, flights are scheduled for the following dates: April 21; May 26; June 16, 17 and 30; August 4; September 1 and 2; October 6; November 10; and December 30 and 31. The *ZERO-G Experience*, which includes a flight of 15 parabolas, a flight suit, complimentary merchandise, awards, a post-event party, photos, and a DVD of the flight, is offered at a price of \$3,500 per seat plus tax. ZERO-G also has regularly scheduled flights from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.



**Why should you never iron a 4-leaf clover?**

**You don't want to press your luck.**

# Happy St. Patrick's Day

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## Why I Love Montana!

When it's springtime in Montana,  
And the gentle breezes blow,  
About seventy miles an hour  
And it's fifty-two below.  
You can tell you're in Montana  
'cause the snow's up to your butt,  
And you take a breath of springtime air  
And your nose holes both freeze shut.  
The weather here is wonderful,  
So I guess I'll hang around,  
I could never leave Montana.  
My feet are frozen to the ground.



Aeronautics Division  
Montana Department of Transportation

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